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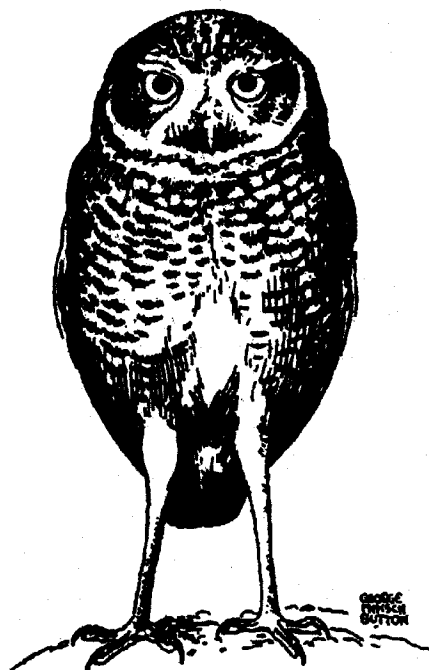
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# ***The Nebraska Bird Review***

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## WINTER FIELD REPORT, December 2012 to February 2013

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### INTRODUCTION

This winter was notable for its lack of snow cover and above-normal temperatures, which allowed a large variety of species to remain in the state for at least the first half of the period. Notable among these species were waterfowl and native sparrows, but additional observations tended to confirm the mildness of the winter: Blue-winged Teal lingering into Dec, Sandhill Cranes wintering again in central Nebraska, a record early egg date for Great Horned Owl, a Sandhills mid-winter Loggerhead Shrike, and wintering Green-tailed Towhee and Dickcissel.

The most significant event was the Common Redpoll invasion; these birds were reported statewide in sizeable flocks. Other notable events were the continued presence in Scotts Bluff Co of the Steller's Jays and Mountain Chickadees that arrived in fall, an echo of last winter's amazing Snowy Owl invasion, higher than expected numbers of adult Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons eastward, a large feeder group of Pinyon Jays in the west, and a mind-boggling 250,444 European Starlings on the North Platte CBC.

Exotic waterfowl are much-maligned by listers, but it behooves us to keep track of what might be future residents; in this category were Mandarin Duck and Ruddy Shelduck, both of which had an interesting story to tell.

There was a good collection of rarities reported, some at the subspecies level. Notable was Hoary Redpoll, expected with the huge number of Common Redpolls in the state, but others included a "Black" Brant, Glaucous-winged Gull, Hairy Woodpecker of the Rocky Mountains subspecies, Bewick's Wren, two Varied Thrushes, a Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Black Rosy-Finch, and Pine Grosbeak.

An interesting observation at the intersection of agriculture and ornithology was the unusual absence of pigeons and doves at a Fremont elevator that had taken in over 400,000 bushels of high-aflatoxin corn.

A final note regarding a convention used in the Winter Report. As regular readers will know, "winter" as considered here is not defined by the calendar, but by the movements of each species being considered. For example, a Baltimore Oriole absent from the state between migration periods would be considered a "winter visitor" if it appeared between approximately 15 Sep and 20 Apr, whereas a Lincoln's Sparrow would only be so considered between approximately 20 Dec and 20 Feb.

### ABBREVIATIONS

ad: adult

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City

BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co  
CBC: Christmas Bird Count  
Cem: Cemetery  
CL: Carter L, Omaha  
fem: female  
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co  
HCR: Harlan Co Res., Republican City  
HL: Holmes L, Lincoln  
imm: immature  
juv: juvenile  
ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha/Richardson Cos  
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co  
LO: L Ogallala, Keith Co  
m.ob.: many observers  
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge  
NNF: Nebraska National Forest  
Res: Reservoir  
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)  
SP: State Park

#### OBSERVERS

AC: Anton Curtis, Grand Island  
AD: Ann Duey, Scottsbluff  
AF: Amy Fitz, Torrington, WY  
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering  
AP: Andrew Pierson, Gering  
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BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City  
BG: Betty Grenon, Bellevue  
BM: Bruce Mellberg, Lincoln  
BP: Bhalchandra Pujari, Lincoln  
BV: Becky Van De Bogart, Cambridge  
BW: Ben Wheeler, Ord  
CC: Charlotte Croshaw, Fremont  
CF: Chris Fagyal, Lenexa, KS  
CH: Connie Hoffman, Dalton  
CM: Connie McCartney, Grand Island  
CMc: Connie McKinney, Scottsbluff  
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue  
D&JP: Don and Jan Paseka, Ames  
DC: Deb Copple, Hubbard  
DE: Dave Ely, Salem, MA  
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk  
DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln

DN: Del Nelson, Ogallala  
EA: Edward Allen, Lincoln  
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue  
EBa: Elaine Bachel, Lincoln  
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma  
GJ: Gail Johnson, Warminster, PA  
GP: Greg Pella, Lincoln  
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont  
GW: Gabe Walker, Ogallala  
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SMa: Sam Manning, Omaha  
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TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow  
TL: Tom Lynch, Lincoln  
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady  
VC: Virginia Clark, North Platte  
WF: William Flack, Madison  
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland  
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

#### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Generally few occur in mid-winter, but this winter there were low numbers or singles at a surprising 11 mostly eastern locations (m. ob.). Rare in the west, especially in winter, the 5 on the Scottsbluff CBC 15 Dec was a count high there (fide AK); likely one of these lingered until at least 28 Jan at Scottsbluff SL (KD). Rather large flocks for the early dates were the 250 at Hastings 9 Feb (LR, RH) and 200 in Otoe Co 10 Feb (JGJ).

**Snow Goose:** Fewer were reported through mid-winter than for the previous species. Earliest arrival of significant numbers was the 1000 at Hastings 9 Feb (LR, RH).

**Ross's Goose:** Occurrence is tied to that of Snow Goose flocks, with best counts from west-central Nebraska; mid-winter reports in Lincoln Co are "not uncommon" and are usually of singles or small numbers with resident Canada Geese (TJW). The ratio of numbers of this species to numbers of Snow Goose in Lincoln Co was estimated to be 1:20 (TJW); 225 were counted 3 Feb (TJW). The 50 near Roscoe 29 Jan (DN) were likely early migrants. Rare

mid-winter reports were of singles at North Platte SL 10 Jan (TJW), easterly birds at Carter L, Omaha, 13-31 Jan (JR, GR, EA) and in Jefferson Co 19 Jan (JGJ), and one at HCR 27 Jan (G&WH).

**Brant:** A "Black" Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) at Hastings 2-3 Feb (PD, MB et al.) was only the 7th documented spring record, and possibly the same bird that was there 2 years previously. The 5 other records are of the eastern subspecies *B. b. bernicla*.

**Cackling Goose:** Not uncommon in winter, most occur in central and western Nebraska, and so 10-24 at CL 10-13 Jan (JGr, JR) and 70 in southeast Washington Co 12 Jan (CNK) were easterly. CBC count highs of 261 at BOL-Seward 16 Dec (fide JG) and 62 at Calamus-Loup 31 Dec (fide DH) suggested numbers were indeed higher than usual eastward. Four birds among "hundreds" near North Platte 6 Feb had "dark breasts with purplish brown sheen", possibly the Alaskan subspecies *Branta hutchinsii minima* (TJW); there is one prior Nebraska report of possible *B. h. minima*: 12 birds in Sarpy Co 28 Feb 2004.

**Canada Goose:** Largest numbers are in western Nebraska in winter; this winter 21,973 were on the North Platte CBC 15 Dec (fide TJW), and 11,953 on the Scottsbluff CBC 15 Dec (fide AK). Best eastern count was the 8500 at CL 3 Feb (JR).

**Ruddy Shelduck:** One at Fremont Lakes SRA, Dodge Co, 14-16 Feb (CC) was the second reported for Nebraska; both are presumed to be escaped or released birds, although curiously, both appeared in mid-Feb.

**Trumpeter Swan:** As is typical of recent winters, reports were statewide; best counts were the 58 on Calamus Res 24 Dec (DH) and 45 at the Highway 61 crossing of the Niobrara R, Cherry Co, 11 Dec (WF).

**Tundra Swan:** The only report was of 15 flying over ICSP 18 Feb, identified by size and calls (LF, SQ). These Tundras are earliest on record by about a week.

**Mandarin Duck:** An unbanded and otherwise unmarked male appeared at Pier Park, Grand Island, 15 Dec (SM); it was in high plumage and seen and photographed through 3 Feb (WRS, BP, DL, LG photo). Although its provenance is unknown, it is likely the same male that was at Pier Park last winter; there is a stable 20-year-old breeding population in Pueblo, CO (DE). Pier Park hosts a surprising number of wintering Wood Ducks, but none appeared to be fem Mandarins (WRS).

**Wood Duck:** This species usually winters in small numbers if at all, and so rather amazing were the 46 on the Grand Island CBC 15 Dec (fide CM); several of these overwintered, with 21 there 27 Jan (WRS) and still 10 on 3 Feb (BP). The only other mid-winter reports were of 2 in Cass Co 20 Jan (JR) and 2 at Lakeside Park, Omaha, 12, 27, and 30 Dec (JR, BP, JGr).

**Gadwall:** Mid-winter reports (9 Jan-5 Feb for this species) are few but increasing; there were 6 reports of 63 birds at 6 locations statewide (m. ob.), including 35 at North Platte SL 10 Jan (TJW). Wintering birds have been found in the North Platte area since 2002 (TJW).

**American Wigeon:** Mid-winter reports are uncommon; 8 were in Cass Co 16 Jan (CNK) and 45 were at Scottsbluff SL 28 Jan (KD). Wintering may be regular at the latter location.

**American Black Duck:** There have been few reports in recent years, although tedious searches of wintering Mallard flocks in the east might yield more. Two were reported: one in Knox Co 1 Dec (MB) and another in Cass Co 19 Jan (L&BP).

**Mallard:** Best tallies were from CBCs: 47,000 at LM 29 Dec (fide SJD) and a count high of 22,074 at North Platte 15 Dec (fide TJW). Highest Dec counts are 73,000+.

**Blue-winged Teal:** There are only 2 prior mid-winter records and 4 additional Dec records, thus significant were two this Dec on CBCs: a surprising 12 birds at North Platte 15 Dec (fide TJW) and one at Ames 18 Dec (fide D&JP).

**Northern Shoveler:** Last winter (2011-2012) a major surprise was the 200 or so that wintered at CL; this winter an even more impressive 400 were there 13 Jan (JR) and 250 on 3 Feb (JR). Until these last 2 winters the only regular wintering was in the North Platte River Valley, whereas this winter 11 were at Scottsbluff SL 28 Jan (KD). There are a few prior scattered mid-winter records, with additional reports this winter of one at North Platte SL 10 Jan (TJW), and 1-2 at HL 12 and 30 Jan (DL, LE). Two at BOL 9 Feb (MW) were likely early arrivals.

**Northern Pintail:** First push of migrants reported was on the early side, with 100 at BOL 9 Feb (MW).

**Green-winged Teal:** Reports were routine for this locally uncommon winter visitor and common migrant.

**Canvasback:** CL hosted 38 as late as 13 Jan (JR); no others were reported there until 55 arrived 11 Feb (JR). One in Sarpy Co 9 Jan (LE) was tardy, as were 2 at HL 12 Jan (DL). One at HL 30 Jan (LE) was an unexpected mid-winter report, as were the 5 at the eastern edge of Lincoln 3 Feb (JGJ).

**Redhead:** Mid-winter reports (13-31 Jan for this species) are uncommon; sightings of one at Alma SL 27 Jan (G&WH), 5 at Scottsbluff SL 28 Jan (KD), and one at HL 30 Jan (LE) may have in fact been early spring arrivals. Spring arrival was indeed early; 19 were at BOL 1 Feb (LE), 6 were on the eastern edge of Lincoln 3 Feb (JGJ), and 20 were at CL 3 Feb (JR).

**Ring-necked Duck:** As with Redhead, there is a very short mid-late Jan window when reports are unexpected. Lingerers were reported through 19 Jan, 2 in Cass Co (L&BP), and early migrants appeared at the eastern edge of Lincoln 3 Feb (20, JGJ) and at CL the same day (65, JR). "Mid-winter" reports, perhaps early migrants, were 2 at Alma SL 25 Jan (G&WH) and 2 at Scottsbluff SL 28 Jan (KD).

**Greater Scaup:** Lingerers were at CL through 13 Jan (JR) and Alma SL through 18 Jan (2, G&WH); one of the latter birds may have wintered, as one was present there 27 Jan (G&WH). Spring arrival was rather early, as with other common divers, on 3 Feb, with 2 on the eastern edge of Lincoln (JGJ) and 2 at CL (JR).

**Lesser Scaup:** Following the pattern of the other common divers, 10 lingered at CL until 13 Jan (JR), and returnees were rather early with 10 at CL 3 Feb (JR) and 4 at the eastern edge of Lincoln (JGJ) the same day. Mid-winter reports were of 2 at Scottsbluff SL 28 Jan (KD) and 2 at Alma SL 29 Jan (G&WH); both sightings may also have been of early migrants.



- White-winged Scoter:** After a good fall showing of 7, the only report for this period was of one at LO 6 Dec (RS, BG).
- Long-tailed Duck:** The only reports were of singles on the LM CBC 29 Dec (fide SJD) and at Alma SL 21 Jan (G&WH). Only casual in mid-winter, most of the 35 Nebraska reports are from central Nebraska.
- Bufflehead:** One at Scottsbluff SL 28 Jan (KD) was a rare mid-winter report or possibly an early migrant, while one at BOL 6 Feb (LE) was an early migrant.
- Common Goldeneye:** Reports were routine for this locally common winter visitor.
- Barrow's Goldeneye:** This species occurs most winters in the North Platte River Valley; a fem was at Scottsbluff SL 19 Feb (PD).
- Hooded Merganser:** Up to 20 (2 Feb; DL) may have wintered at CL, although none were reported 14 Jan-2 Feb. Two at BOL 1 Feb (LE) were likely early migrants.
- Common Merganser:** Best tally was a moderate 3850 in Lancaster Co 16 Feb (LE), still a good eastern count; high winter counts are from larger westerly reservoirs and are 15,000+.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Few were reported, best count 8 at BOL 14 Dec (LE) and last reported a single at LO 30 Dec (LE). This species is only casual in occurrence in mid-winter.
- Ruddy Duck:** The only overwintering birds were at CL, where up to 7 were reported through the period, including mid-winter dates of 14 and 21 Jan and 3 Feb (JR, GR); no spring influx was noted there through the period, and 3 remained 20 Feb (JR). One in Saline Co 13 Feb (LE) was likely an early migrant.
- Northern Bobwhite:** Reports were uniformly pessimistic: "only 31" on the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (DH), "none for the season" by an active Lancaster Co observer (LE), "increasingly difficult to find" with only 6 in Otoe Co 21 Jan (JGJ), and only 3 compared to the usual 40 on the BOL-Seward CBC 16 Dec (JG).
- Gray Partridge:** The only report was of 12 at Cunningham L, Omaha, 5 Jan (JJe), a most unexpected location; the birds were likely released there.
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Reports were routine for this locally common statewide resident.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Reports were "almost routine", but noteworthy was the zero count on the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (fide DH); this count usually reports good numbers.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Best single flock tally was the 79 near Brady 15 Feb (TJW); flocks in the 100-bird range are rarely reported.
- Wild Turkey:** This species is ubiquitous and numerous in Nebraska, with amazing CBC tallies from Calamus-Loup of 524 on 31 Dec (fide DH) and 407 at Crawford 22 Dec (B&DW). The Calamus-Loup count is the CBC all-time high for a Nebraska CBC.
- Common Loon:** Last migrants were 3 tardy birds at BOL 8 Dec (JGJ); latest dates are in mid-Dec.
- Pied-billed Grebe:** Most surprising were the 1-3 that wintered at CL (JR, JED, GR, SMA, EA), the first confirmed overwintering in the east; there are a few overwintering records from the North Platte River Valley. Other than these records, there were only 2 previous reports 7 Jan-18 Feb, but there were 3 this

winter: singles on Salt Creek, Lincoln, 1 Feb (LE), and at BOL 9 Feb (GR) and 17 Feb (SMA), the latter two reports likely of the same bird.

**Horned Grebe:** Stragglers included 3 at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 31 Dec (LE), 2 at LM 29 Dec (SJD), and 1-3 at BOL 3-16 Dec (JG, JGJ, LE). There are only 6 reports in all for Jan.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Remarkable, but not unprecedented in recent winters, were the 3 juvs at LM 29 Dec (SJD, WRS). There are now 7 reports from LM of up to 3 birds, mostly juveniles, in the period 21 Dec-4 Jan.

**Eared Grebe:** Last reported was one in Lancaster Co 7 Dec (LE); latest dates are in mid-Dec.

**Western Grebe:** There were a moderate 255 reported on the LM CBC 29 Dec (fide SJD), but most had departed as winter progressed; only one was found there 16 Feb (JGJ), one of only 6 Feb records in all.

**Clark's Grebe:** One on the LM CBC 29 Dec (SJD) was about the 7th-latest on record.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** An immature wintered at Hiatt Memorial Wetlands, North Platte, (TJW, RB photo, JP). Most reports of wintering are from the cooling pond at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, where there have been 10 such reports; this winter's report is only the 4th away from there. There are 4 scattered additional Jan reports and one for Feb.

**American White Pelican:** Of the 4 singles reported on CBCs, only one appeared to have survived the winter, that at LM (TH, AF). Spring arrival was record early, with "scores" at HCR 12 Feb (WF) and 300 there by 16 Feb (JGJ). Interesting was a dead bird found on the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec that had been banded as a flightless juv at Medina, ND, 8 Jul 1999 (WM).

**Great Blue Heron:** Wintering occurs regularly in the North Platte River Valley; 12 were at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 6 Jan (PD). Elsewhere lingering singles were at BOL 7 Jan (LE) and in Cass Co 3 Jan (CNK).

**Bald Eagle:** High count at a single location is 284 at Kingsley Dam, LM, and so the 240 at HCR 17 Feb (PD) was an excellent tally, 4th best overall.

**Northern Harrier:** Reports were routine for this uncommon statewide winter visitor.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Reports were routine for this uncommon statewide winter visitor.

**Cooper's Hawk:** Reports were routine for this uncommon statewide winter visitor.

**Northern Goshawk:** More than usual were reported, a total of 4 birds. An imm was in Burt Co 2 Dec (TJW), 2 were on the Norfolk CBC 22 Dec (fide DH), and a well-described ad (GW) was on the LM CBC 29 Dec (fide SJD).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** The 3 reports were encouraging for this marginal southeast Nebraska breeder; singles were near Bellevue 1 Feb (GJ) and at Olive Creek Res, Lancaster Co, 8 Feb (SSc), and 2 together were in Thurston Co in good breeding habitat 23 Feb (BFH).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Good ratios of hawks per mile were the 48 in 65 miles in Washington and Burt Cos 13 Jan, including 6 dark birds (JT), and 31 in 67 miles in Dodge Co 6 Jan (D&JP).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** Reports were routine for this uncommon western winter resident.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Reports were routine for this fairly common winter visitor.

**Golden Eagle:** This winter saw a major movement eastward, including a surprising number of ads; most easterly reports are of imms. No fewer than 3 ads reached the eastern edge of the state: one in Dodge Co 11 Dec (D&JP, GR), another in Otoe Co 18 Jan (SQ), and a third in Washington Co 3 Feb (MW). Even in westerly North Platte, the 3+ reported constituted an "irruption" (TJW). Single ads were in Harlan Co 25 Jan (G&WH) and Knox Co 9 Dec (MB), and an imm was in Custer Co 1 Jan (TH). A correction: 2 on the 2011 Ponca SP CBC were ascribed by me to Jan Johnson (JJ), but were not in fact seen by her.

**Virginia Rail:** The only reports were of singles in the North Platte River Valley (fide SJD, AD), where the species is a regular winterer.

**American Coot:** This species will overwinter as long as open water remains; as many as 15 wintered at CL (JR), and mid-winter reports were of 4 in Jefferson Co 19 Jan (JGJ), 9 at Scottsbluff SL 28 Jan (KD), and 3 in Lincoln 3 Feb (JGJ).

**Sandhill Crane:** For the second consecutive year, between 200 and 1000 wintered in the Grand Island-Doniphan area (JLL, LR, RH, WRS, TJW); arrival was noted in the area 10 Feb, when numbers around Doniphan "increased dramatically" (JLL). At least 1700 had arrived in Lincoln Co by 28 Feb (TJW).

**Killdeer:** This species winters in the North Platte River Valley in small numbers. Nine were at LO 6 Jan (PD), one was reported there 17 Feb (MW), as many as 14 wintered at various Lincoln Co locations (TJW), and 2 were in Scotts Bluff Co 27 Jan (AF). More unusual were singles in Lancaster Co 1 Feb (LE) and 17-18 Feb (JV, TCG).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Surprisingly, this winter 3 were in Knox Co 2 Dec (MB), one remaining until 5 Dec (RS, BG). There are only 6 prior records for Dec and 3 for Jan.

**Wilson's Snipe:** The 31 on the LM CBC 29 Dec (fide SJD) was an impressive tally.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** None were reported for the period; last dates are during the first week of Dec.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Stragglers were 1-3 at LM 29-30 Dec (fide SJD, LE). There are several reports into Jan, almost all at LM.

**Franklin's Gull:** Last for fall was one at BOL 21-23 Dec (LE), one of 22 reports in the period 2 Dec-21 Feb. Arrival is in mid-late Feb; 27 flew over Douglas Co 17 Feb (SMc).

**Mew Gull:** LM is a regular site for this rare species in late fall-early winter, with 10 of the 18 overall fall records to date from there; up to 3 ads were there 28 Dec-6 Jan (SJD, SMa, PD). An ad at HCR 17 Feb (PD) was only the 4th spring record away from LM.

**Ring-billed Gull:** Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide winter visitor.

**California Gull:** Numbers were lower than usual; only about 7 were reported, all ads, 5 at Sutherland Res 28 Dec (SJD) and 1-2 at LM 28-30 Dec (SJD, LE). Few actually overwinter, most departing by the end of Dec.

**Herring Gull:** The 332 at Sutherland Res 28 Dec (SJD) was a good count; high counts are 416-540.

**Thayer's Gull:** This was a typical winter for this species, with reports of about 9 birds at 6 locations statewide (m.ob.). Away from LM and Sutherland Res reports are few; an ad at BOL 6-16 Feb (LE, MW photo, m.ob.) may have moved to Oak L, Lincoln, where an ad was present 17-18 Feb (SMa, m.ob.). An ad and a juv were at HCR 17 Feb (PD), and a juv was at Johnson L, Gosper/Dawson Cos, 17 Feb (PD).

**Iceland Gull:** The only report was of a juv at LM 1 Feb (PD, details). This is the 23rd record for Nebraska; all but 3 are in late fall and winter.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** This species has become a regular, albeit rare, migrant in recent years, with only 4 mid-winter (4 Jan-11 Feb) records. This year, however, an ad was at LM 6 Jan (TH, PD), and no fewer than 5 were there 1 Feb, including 2 ads, one 3rd-year, and one 1st-year (PD). There were no reports 6 Jan-1 Feb from LM, but it seems likely at least one bird may have wintered. Fall reports were of a juv at Sutherland Res 28 Dec (SJD), and up to 3 at LM 28-31 Dec (SJD, MG, CF, SMa, LE). Reports increased during Feb as expected for spring migrants: an ad was at Oak L, Lincoln, 15-22 Feb (RSt, m.ob.), a 1st-year was at HCR 16 Feb (JGJ) and an ad was there the next day (PD).

**Glaucous-winged Gull:** Nebraska's third documented record was of a third-winter ad at LO 16-23 Feb (JGJ photo, m. ob.). The previous two records were also in the LM area in Dec and Apr.

**Glaucous Gull:** Oddly, none were reported until Feb; this species is a locally uncommon winter visitor. Only about 5 were reported in all, 3 of those, all juvs, at LM 1 Feb (PD). There was a group of mid-Feb reports, suggestive of migrants: singles were at LM 17-18 Feb (MW, PD), an ad and an imm appeared sporadically at Capitol Beach L and Oak L in Lincoln 10-18 Feb (JGJ, LE, m.ob.) and a juv was at HCR 17 Feb (PD).

**Rock Pigeon:** Reports were routine for this locally abundant statewide resident.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** An all-time CBC count high for Nebraska was the 496 at Grand Island 15 Dec (fide CM). Of interest for a Sandhills CBC was the count-high 75 at Calamus-Loup 31 Dec (fide DH).

**White-winged Dove:** Two of only 11 records for the period 11 Oct-19 Mar were of singles in Omaha 25 Dec (MC) and Grand Island 21 Feb (AC).

**Mourning Dove:** Reports were generally as expected, although noteworthy were 6 northerly for the date on the Norfolk CBC 22 Dec (JJ) and a good CBC tally of 208 at Lincoln 15 Dec (fide LRB); highest CBC count is 495, also at Lincoln.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide resident.

**Great Horned Owl:** A nest found to hold an egg after an ad was flushed 18 Jan near North Platte (TJW) may be earliest egg date on record for Nebraska; the only other Jan record is also from North Platte, in 2008 (TJW). Previous data suggest egg dates and/or incubation beginning in mid to late Feb.

**Snowy Owl:** After the huge invasion in winter 2011-2012, there was a surprisingly strong "echo" invasion this winter. There were 5 reported in fall, and during

the winter period there were at least 11 more, for a total through 28 Feb of at least 16. Reports were of a fem near Valley 5-7 Dec (JC, SSc, JGJ); a fem near Grand Island 11 Dec (JLC); an ad fem near Harrison 17-23 Dec (AD, KD photo); a road-killed bird near L Wanahoo, Saunders Co, 20 Dec (fide JGJ); one in western Douglas Co, possibly the Valley bird, 20 Dec (fide JGJ); one near Bellwood 29 Dec (fide JGJ); probably one bird in Colfax Co reported 3 and 4 Jan, 4 miles apart (TJW); one near Hastings 12 Jan (PD); one near Hallam 2 Feb (fide JGJ); one near Dannebrog 6 Feb (JGJ); one near Doniphan 13 Feb (JLL); and a fem north of L Wanahoo, Saunders Co, 19-20 Feb (PH, m.ob.).

**Barred Owl:** One in Saline Co 13 Feb (LE) was westerly; there is a population in the Big Blue River Valley.

**Long-eared Owl:** Reports were routine for this uncommon statewide winter visitor.

**Short-eared Owl:** Reports were routine for this nomadic uncommon statewide winter visitor.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** The only reports of this uncommon winter visitor were from opposite ends of the state; singles were on the DeSoto NWR CBC 29 Dec (fide JT) and northwest of Crawford 28 Feb (ML fide WM).

**Belted Kingfisher:** The 9 on the Scottsbluff CBC 15 Dec (fide AK) was a good tally.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** All reports were from the southeast, where the species winters most years; best count was 19 at ICSP 17 Jan (RSt).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** One at a feeder at LM 24 Dec (JB) was westerly, although numbers are increasing in that area.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** As with Red-headed Woodpecker, reports from the southeast were widespread, but as well included a few reports from areas north and west where the species is unexpected in mid-winter. An imm was in Hooker Co 10 Dec (WF); a juv first seen at a LM feeder in Nov continued through 24 Dec and was joined that day by an ad (JB) with the ad counted on the LM CBC 29 Dec (SJD, WRS); one was in Cambridge 30 Dec (BV fide JGJ); 2 were on the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (fide DH, D&JP); and one was in North Platte 6-10 Jan (TH, JJ). The 6 on the BOL-Seward CBC 16 Dec (fide JG) was a count high.

**Downy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** Birds from the Rocky Mountains (subspecies *Picoides villosus monticola*) occur in winter at lower elevations foothills and adjacent plains in eastern Colorado, but until this winter were undocumented in Nebraska. One was photographed in Scotts Bluff Co 1 Feb (KD), distinguished by the absence of white markings in the "shoulder" area.

**Northern Flicker:** Reports were routine for this common statewide winter visitor.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Reports delineated the current range, with sightings from ICSP north to Washington Co (m.ob.). New sites included Brownville (GP fide WRS), and Riverview Park, Nebraska City (LF). The 5 on the Omaha CBC 15 Dec (fide BG) was a count high.

**American Kestrel:** Reports were routine for this uncommon winter visitor.

**Merlin:** Reports were routine for this uncommon winter visitor.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Most reports were from Omaha and Lincoln and nearby; no doubt these were resident breeders from those cities. Otherwise, this species is less than annual in winter, and so one in Buffalo Co 1 Dec (WF) and a juv in Dodge Co 7 Jan (GR) were good finds.

**Prairie Falcon:** As with Golden Eagle, there was a strong eastward movement. At least 16 were reported from Seward Co eastward (m.ob.).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** This species is rare in mid-winter but can be found most years in the extreme southeast; one well-described in Gage Co 8 Feb (SSc) may have been an early migrant, as early dates are mid-Feb. Rare away from the southeast between 1 Jan and mid-Feb, one was in Valley Co 15 Jan (BW), only the 7th such record.

**Northern Shrike:** Good numbers were reported statewide, including a good single-person tally of 4 in Lancaster Co 1 Feb (LE).



This Hairy Woodpecker is the first documented record of the Rocky Mountains subspecies *Picoides villosus monticola* for Nebraska; photographed by Kathy DeLara in Scotts Bluff County 1 Feb 2013.

**Steller's Jay:** The estimated 7-8 birds that arrived in Scotts Bluff Co in mid-Nov continued through the winter period. By 28 Feb there were an estimated 7 individuals in the area (AK, MS, KSt, KD, PD). No additional birds or locations were reported.

**Blue Jay:** Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.

**Pinyon Jay:** A remarkable report with a photo of no fewer than 84 Pinyon Jays was taken 17 Feb in a yard northwest of Dalton (CH). Six years ago this yard hosted a peak of 72, but in following years the number declined to 26 and then recovered to this year's peak; Pinyon Jays are in the area year round (CH). No other reports were received.

**Black-billed Magpie:** The largest flock reported for some time was the 50+ in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Dec (AP).

**American Crow:** The Calamus-Loup CBC reported 5223 on 31 Dec (fide DH); this circle holds the record at 9602.

**Horned Lark:** Reports were routine for this abundant winter visitor.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** Positive comments related to the continuing rebound in numbers included "a new yard record of 6" in Lincoln 8 Dec (RE), and "chickadees are back" on the Ames CBC 18 Dec (D&JP).

**Mountain Chickadee:** As with Steller's Jay, reports were confined to Scotts Bluff Co. Six were noted in Nov, and at least 8 were present at various feeders during the winter period (KD, AD, MS, SMa, PD); 8 were counted on the Scottsbluff CBC 15 Dec (fide AK).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Sightings in Lincoln are noteworthy; the species has previously been rare there but appears to be increasing in numbers. An active observer's only sighting for the period was one on 14 Dec (LE); "first ever in the yard" was noted 26 Dec (MUs); two were in a yard 3 Feb (RS); and one wintered at another feeder (TL).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Reports were widespread in above average numbers, including counts of 6 at Pioneers Park, Lincoln, 4 Dec (JC, SSc) and at North Platte Cem 10 Jan (JJ).



These Pinyon Jays were in the Hoffman yard northwest of Dalton in Morrill County 17 Feb. There were 84 birds in all. Photo by Connie Hoffman.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Scottsbluff CBC had a count high there of 10 on 15 Dec (fide AK), while Crawford and Harrison had only 3 total (fide B&DW), suggestive of an effect of the extensive fire damage in the western Pine Ridge.

Observers should attempt to identify this species to subspecies by calls wherever possible in order to assess movements.

**Pygmy Nuthatch:** Occasionally this species pops up in unexpected places, such as the 2 at a North Platte Cem 6 Jan-25 Feb (TH, photo, m.ob.); this is only the 7th report away from northwest Nebraska. Apparently this species (and Brown-headed Nuthatch) will leave its home range following major disruptions such as fire or logging; the extensive fire damage in the western Pine Ridge may have caused the North Platte birds to move.

**Brown Creeper:** Numbers were above the usual reported; the 18 on the BOL-Seward CBC 16 Dec was a count high there (fide JG) and 6 were at a North Platte Cem 10 Jan (TJW). The latter is a non-CBC record high count for this usually unobtrusive and solitary species.

**Carolina Wren:** Higher numbers than in recent years were reported, led by an excellent Omaha CBC count high of 48 on 15 Dec (fide BG). DeSoto NWR CBC also reported a count high, 8, on 29 Dec (fide JT). Outliers were one at Ponca SP 4 Dec (RS, BG), one at Columbus 14-25 Jan (JBe fide JGJ), 2 in Grand Island 23-24 Feb (SM), one at Kearney 16 Jan (ARu), and one in Thayer Co 15 Feb (WF).

**Bewick's Wren:** Most surprising for this rare species in Nebraska was one in a Scottsbluff yard for the local CBC 15 Dec (CMc photo; fide AK); strangely, one had appeared in the same yard in Jan 2009. There are only 5 reports suggestive of wintering attempts.

**Winter Wren:** This species is rare in mid-winter, only found in southeast Nebraska. A possible winterer was at ADF 13 Feb (LF).

**Marsh Wren:** Reports were routine for this local winterer, with most reports from the North Platte River Valley.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Mid-winter reports are usually restricted to the southeast; thus surprising were 10 on the northerly Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (fide DH). Two were in North Platte 10 Jan (JJ).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Mid-winter reports away from the southeast are unexpected; 5-7 were at Lewellen 1-7 Jan (LJ).

**Mountain Bluebird:** This species winters regularly in the cedar canyons of southeastern Lincoln Co; 100+ were there 19 Jan (TJW, MWa) and 60 on 1 Feb (PD).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** Singles made it as far east as Ponca SP for the CBC 14 Dec (fide BFH) and Sarpy Co 7 Jan (CNK); such easterly reports are rare.

**Hermit Thrush:** Although a fairly cold-tolerant species, the only mid-winter reports were from the southeast, where this species winters on occasion: singles were in Bellevue 14 Jan (L&BP) and in Sarpy Co 20 Jan (KC).

**American Robin:** Reports were routine for this common winter visitor.

**Varied Thrush:** There were two reports: one was in York 8 Dec (GWo, EBa) and a female was in Douglas Co 31 Dec-2 Jan (JR). These are the 14th and 15th records since 2005.

**Northern Mockingbird:** This species is "half-hardy", with almost no Feb reports; the 3 reports this winter were of one on the Lincoln CBC 15 Dec (PH, fide LRB), one that left Alma 21 Dec "with the first snow" (G&WH), and one that was a rare mid-winter sighting in Jefferson Co 19 Jan (JGJ).



**Brown Thrasher:** As with other Nebraska mimids, this species rarely winters in the state, and so the 4 reports were unexpected as to dates and locations. An apparently-injured bird survived at least until 16 Feb in Madison (RL), singles were on the LM CBC 29 Dec (fide SJD) and the Calamus-Loup CBC 31 Dec (fide DH), and one was in Johnson Co 15 Feb (JGJ).

**European Starling:** A staggering 250,444 were counted on the North Platte CBC 15 Dec (fide TJW), about double the previous high CBC for the state.

**American Pipit:** A straggler in Lancaster Co 25 Dec (TEL) was the 7th report for Dec; 5 of the other 6 reports are not documented.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** There are very few reports away from the Pine Ridge, those usually in incursion years; apparently the first such documented report not associated with an influx was of a single in Boyd Co 24 Feb (WF, details).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Reports were routine for this common statewide winter visitor.

**Lapland Longspur:** Huge aggregations occur in Feb prior to departure. This year, several flocks were estimated by an experienced observer to total 50,000 west of Seward 10 Feb (JG), and 7500 were in Dixon Co 12 Feb (JJ). There are two other estimates of 50,000 on record.

**Snow Bunting:** Reports were more widespread than usual, with some good counts; DeSoto NWR CBC 29 Dec had 59 (fide JT), 32 were in Washington Co 29 Dec (SQ), and 24 on 5 Jan (LE) was the peak count at BOL, where 4-24 were present 1-5 Jan (m. ob.).

**Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Reports of small numbers were widespread through the mid-winter period. Up until 2007 there had been only 20 total Feb reports, but in 2007 there were 4 and in 2011 there were 5. Continuing this trend were the 5 received this winter: one in Richardson Co 15 Feb (JGJ), one at BOL 16 Feb (LE), one in Sarpy Co 17 Feb (CNK), 5-7 at HCR 17-19 Feb (PD, G&WH), and one at LO 23 Feb (MB).

**Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** Nebraska's first winter record was of one at LO 23 Feb (MB, photo). This is the only report for Nebraska between 1 Nov and 11 Apr.

**Green-tailed Towhee:** One in Scotts Bluff Co 5 Jan (PD) was only the 6th winter record and first since 1985. All previous winter records were of birds at feeders in the east.

**Spotted Towhee:** Good numbers lingered in the southeast with 7 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 29 Dec (fide JT) and an Omaha CBC count high of 6 on 15 Dec (fide BG); one was rather late as far west as the Scottsbluff CBC 15 Dec (fide AK). No fewer than 15 were reported Jan-Feb (m. ob), more than usual for this rare winter visitor; all were in the southeast as expected.

**Eastern Towhee:** The only report was of two on the DeSoto NWR CBC 29 Dec (fide JT). Wintering is less than annual for this species.

**American Tree Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this abundant statewide winter visitor.

**Field Sparrow:** Only the 24th record for Jan was one in Washington Co 2 Jan (JJ, details). There are fewer than 10 records for Feb.

**Savannah Sparrow:** As with Field Sparrow, there are only about 10 scattered winter records for this species. This winter there were 4 reports of single birds from the same general area that was hosting a diverse group of wintering sparrows.

The 4 reports may have been of a single individual: 26 Dec in Washington Co (JT); 29 Dec on the DeSoto NWR CBC (JT), a count first there; 28 Jan at Boyer Chute NWR, Washington Co (SSc, details); and 20 Feb at Boyer Chute NWR (EB).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** An ad with a group of Song Sparrows at N.P. Dodge Park, Omaha, 12 Feb (JT), is the first Dec-Feb record for Nebraska. This species winters regularly in southeast Kansas.

**Fox Sparrow:** Continuing a trend in recent years, there were numerous mid-winter reports suggesting that over-wintering is becoming a regular occurrence in the southeast. A total of 44 were reported on CBCs, including 19 at DeSoto NWR 29 Dec (fide JT), 8 on the Omaha CBC 15 Dec, a count high there (fide BG), and one as far northwest as Calamus-Loup 29 Dec (fide DH). Best non-CBC mid-winter counts were 7 at FF 13 Feb (JR) and 4 in southeastern Washington Co 18 Jan (JR, EB). Outlier reports were of 3 at a Columbus feeder through the winter (MN), one in a Kearney Co yard 5-20 Jan (LR, RH), and 2 in Hall Co 17 Feb (SM).

**Song Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this uncommon winter visitor, most numerous in the southeast.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** This species is a rare, less-than-annual, winter visitor in the southeast, but there were several reports this winter. There were multiple reports of single birds, possibly all of the same bird, in southeast Washington Co throughout Jan (GR, JJ, LE, RSt, SSc details), and two were on the DeSoto NWR CBC 29 Dec (fide JT). Additional mid-winter sightings were of singles in Cass Co 25 Jan (RSt) and in northeastern Douglas Co 30 Jan (JGr, details). There were no Feb reports; in all there are only 3 Feb records for the state.

**Swamp Sparrow:** This species is another rare, less-than-annual, winter visitor in the southeast. CBC numbers were good, including 12 at DeSoto NWR 29 Dec (fide JT) and 11 at Omaha 15 Dec (fide BG). Two westerly birds were a surprise on the LM CBC 29 Dec (fide SJD). Jan-Feb reports are few, but there were these this year: up to 6 were at Boyer Chute NWR, Washington Co, 2-28 Jan (GR, LE, JR, SSc details); singles were at N.P. Dodge Park, Omaha, 3 (GR) and 30 Jan (JGr details) and 16 Feb (JT); one was at ICSP 19 Jan (MW); and 5 were at FF 13 Feb (JR).

**White-throated Sparrow:** The only report away from the southeast, where expected, was of 2 at Hastings 31 Dec (PSa).

**Harris's Sparrow:** Reports are much more common from the east than the west. There were CBC count highs at both Omaha (217, fide BG) and DeSoto NWR (207, fide JT) and an excellent non-CBC tally was 115 in eastern Washington Co 16 Jan (JT). Rare in the west, 1-2 were wintering near Mitchell; the appearance of 2 birds there 13 Jan was the first time that 2 had appeared together in the yard (KD).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** This species winters in small numbers across southern Nebraska, and reports (m. ob.) reflected that situation. Usually numbers are higher in the west; Scottsbluff had a CBC tally of 65 (fide AK); the 27 at DeSoto NWR CBC was a count high there (fide JT).

**Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** Reports were routine for this uncommon Panhandle winter visitor.

- Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco:** Reports were routine for this abundant statewide winter visitor.
- Dark-sided (Oregon) Junco:** This form comprises up to 10% of juncos in eastern Nebraska; however, CBCs this year indicated a lower percentage: Lincoln had 4 Oregons and 319 Slate-colored (fide LRB) and BOL-Seward had 15 Oregons and 300 Slate-colored (fide JG).
- Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco:** This form, currently considered part of the Oregon complex, is rare eastward with fewer than 10 documented records. Details were provided for one in Cuming Co 14-15 Feb (KSv) and another near Kearney 24 Dec (LR, RH).
- Northern Cardinal:** Numbers westerly continue to increase slowly; the 14 on the North Platte CBC 15 Dec was a new count high there (TJW), and a male frequented a Scotts Bluff Co yard through the period (KD). First song reported for spring was of an anxious bird in Lincoln 2 Feb (JGJ).
- Dickcissel:** One was photographed with House Sparrows in Lincoln 15 Dec (BM, fide JGJ); there are 3 records of overwintering and 6 additional records of birds lingering in fall, latest 1 Jan.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Late Jan-early Feb flocks are unusual; 1500 were at BOL 1 Feb (LE). Also unusual was the female-only flock of 250 in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Jan (KD).
- Western Meadowlark:** First call reported was in Lancaster Co 6 Feb (LE). Good mid-winter counts (reported as "Meadowlark sp.") were the 101 at BOL 23 Feb (LE) and 100 in Dodge Co 22 Dec (D&JP).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Two attempted to winter at a Platte Co feeder; one made it, but one was eaten by a Cooper's Hawk (MN). This is only the 4th record of overwintering.
- Rusty Blackbird:** Mid-winter reports are expected in the east, but a surprise was the report of 20 (on 24 Jan) at Broken Bow SL through the winter (TH). Westerly reports are unusual; 1-3 were in Keith Co 28 Dec-1 Jan (SJD, SMa).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** This species is a rare winter visitor in the south, but the 30 in Lancaster Co 12 Jan (LE) was still a good find. The LM CBC had 4 on 29 Dec (fide SJD); most CBCs there record this species.
- Common Grackle:** Best CBC tally was the 200 at LM 29 Dec (fide SJD), a good count for the date and location. The usual singles were reported in the southeast during Jan, most at feeders (D&JP, LR, RH, JT). Returnees were first noted 7 Feb when 5 appeared in a Douglas Co yard (JM); a flock of 500 was in Grand Island the same day (R&SW).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Since about 2010 there has been a trend of sizeable groups wintering in larger cities; this winter 80 wintered in Hastings (PD), 125 in North Platte (TJW), and 60 in Grand Island (JLC).
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Most winters there are a few reports from the south, usually with flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds. This winter, singles were in Hamilton Co 13 Jan (LR, RH) and at BOL 1 Feb (LE). The 400 on the LM CBC 29 Dec (fide SJD) was an excellent tally for the date and location. Northerly CBC reports were of 2 birds at Calamus-Loup 31 Dec (fide DH), 2 at Norfolk 22 Dec (fide DH), and one at Ponca SP 14 Dec (fide BFH). Two stragglers were in Cass Co 2 Jan (CNK).

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch:** All reports were from Scottsbluff NM, where 75-100 were reported 30 Dec (SMA) through 2 Feb (KD, PD, BF). Ten of the *Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis* (Hepburn's) subspecies were in the flock 5 Jan (PD).

**Black Rosy-Finch:** The only reports were of 1-2 with the 90 Gray-crowns frequenting Scottsbluff NM 5 Jan (PD) and 2 Feb (BF). These sightings are the 3rd record for Nebraska; the others were of up to 6 wintering in 2000-2001 with each of two separate large flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in Sioux Co.

**Pine Grosbeak:** A female that had been at a feeder in Dakota Co since late fall was photographed 26 Jan (DC photo, fide BFH). There were two other reports of singles without photos: one was heard in Lincoln 7 Feb (RE) and a male was at a Seward feeder Jan-15 Feb (KG). This year saw a minor incursion into northern plains states; these are only the 9th-12th records of this species in Nebraska since 1980.



This female Pine Grosbeak was photographed by Deb Copple 26 Jan 2013 at her Dakota County, Nebraska, feeder.

**Purple Finch:** Numbers were about average overall. Rare westerly, one was on the Scottsbluff CBC 15 Dec (fide AK), and 3 were at a LM Feeder 24 Dec (JB).

**Cassin's Finch:** None were reported during the period, despite the several Sep reports and one for Nov.

**House Finch:** Best non-CBC tally was the 100 at a Mitchell yard 9 Dec (KD).

**Red Crossbill:** Small groups appeared statewide, for a generally good year in terms of numbers. Best counts were 23 at the North Platte Cem 6 Jan (TH), where

4-23 were reported 15 Dec-10 Jan (TJW, JJ), and 20 at NNF, Halsey, 12 Dec (JJ). Observers are recording crossbill call notes and identifying them by sonogram to type (per Groth 1993; Young; eBird article Oct 2012). Resident crossbills in the Nebraska northwest are Type 2, a large-billed Ponderosa Pine specialist, and the usual winter visitor to the rest of Nebraska. This year, however, Type 3 (a Pacific Northwest Hemlock specialist) and Type 5 (a Lodgepole Pine specialist) were reported. Both are said to have distinctive calls (see Young); neither were documented by sonogram in Nebraska, but both were documented this winter in Iowa, Missouri and/or Kansas. Type 5 reports were of 13 at North Platte Cem 15 Dec (TJW; "possible") and 2 in southern North Platte 10 Jan (TJW; call described as "choop choop"). Type 3 reports were of 18 at North Platte Cem 18 Jan (TJW; "probable") and one in Creighton 2 Feb (MB; close up photo shows "smaller bill" than usual Type 2).

**White-winged Crossbill:** After good numbers appeared in fall, numbers dwindled, with none reported after 6 Jan. Of about 100 reports in all for Nebraska, half are in Nov. This winter there were reports of 22 birds at 8 locations west to Grand Island (m. ob.), best count was 6 in Norfolk Lutheran Cem 6 Jan (SB).

**Common Redpoll:** Reports in fall were promising, with about 38 birds reported, but the winter turned into a true invasion year, the first of this magnitude since 1977-1978. Overall, around 1500 were reported; best non-CBC tallies were 275 in Lincoln Co 13 Jan (TJW, MW), 200 in Holt Co 5 Jan (SB), and 200 in southeastern Washington Co 10 Feb (JR). An amazing 541 were reported on CBCs, including 239 at DeSoto NWR CBC 29 Dec (fide JT), second-highest all-time for Nebraska, and 176 at Calamus-Loup 31 Dec (fide DH).

**Hoary Redpoll:** As all birders know, whenever good numbers of Common Redpolls are in the area, thoughts turn to the rare Hoary. Until this winter there had been only 8 reports for Nebraska, all but one in Jan-Feb. This winter there were 2 reports with photos that were convincing, although the NOU Records Committee will no doubt weigh in on these. A very pale male was photographed at BOL 2 Jan, possibly accompanied by a fem (BP, DL), and another bird was photographed in Lincoln Co 18 Jan (VC). A pale redpoll photographed in tricky light in Omaha 22 Jan (JBa) could not be identified with certainty. It is likely that Hoary Redpolls are under-identified in regions like Nebraska where they are very rare. (See photos on following page.)

**Pine Siskin:** This species usually occurs statewide in winter in moderate numbers, but this winter saw noticeably higher numbers than usual. An amazing 552 were counted on the BOL-Seward CBC 16 Dec (fide JG), and 196 were tallied on the Scottsbluff CB 15 Dec (fide AK).

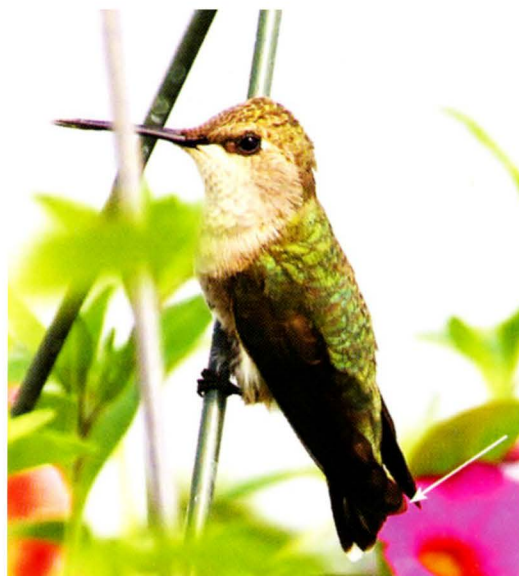
**American Goldfinch:** Reports were routine for this abundant statewide winter visitor.

**Evening Grosbeak:** In contrast to the 4 reports in fall all being from the west, the two this winter were from the east: a single fem was at a Blair feeder 22 Jan-23 Feb (MP photo, JR, CNK) and one was identified by its "Black Hills type" call at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 24 Feb (JR).

**House Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this abundant statewide resident.



Left: This photo taken by Bhalchandra Pujari at Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co, 2 Jan 2013, was identified as a Hoary Redpoll. Right: This photo taken by Virginia Clark in Lincoln Co, 18 Jan 2013 was identified as a Hoary Redpoll. See discussion on previous page.



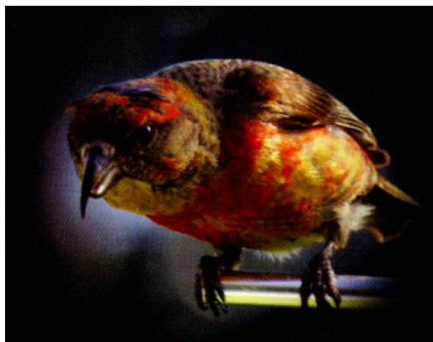
First state record Black-chinned Hummingbird, photographed at Jane's Greenhouse in Scottsbluff 7 May 2012. See article, pages 30-32. Note the rounded tip of primary 9, a key characteristic distinguishing Black-chinned from Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

The following sites discuss key differences between the two species: <http://staff.jccc.edu/dseibel/rthu.htm>; <http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlifemgmt/diversity/RTHUBCHUcomparison.pdf>.

Three of six Sage Thrashers observed at Scotts Bluff National Monument, Scotts Bluff Co., 28 Aug 2012. Photo by Marie Smith.

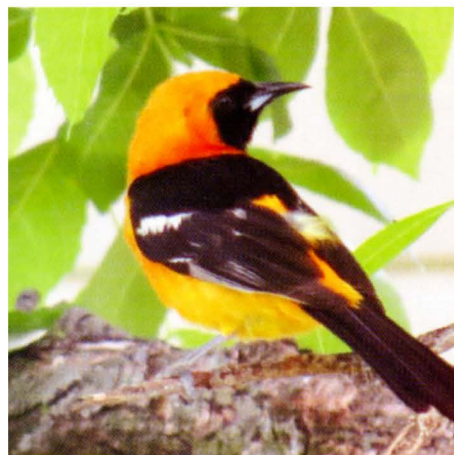






Red Crossbills in the photographer's yard, Central City, Merrick Co., 31 May 2013.  
Photo by Mike Darbro.

First state record Hooded Oriole at the  
feeders of Susie and Bill Daro and  
son Colin, Garrison, Butler Co., 26  
May 2013. Photo by Mark Brogie.



Golden-winged Warbler, near 90th and  
Harney, Omaha, Douglas Co., 11 May  
2011. Photo by Richard Pouchert.





Double-crested Cormorant at farm pond near Powder Creek Res., Dixon Co., 27 April 2013. Photo by Mark Brogie.



Burrowing Owl, southern Cherry Co., 20 June 2012. Photo by Jan Johnson.



American Kestrel, near Burwell, Garfield Co., 20 April 2013. Photo by Bob Gerten.



Grasshopper Sparrow, 8 miles north of Creighton, Knox Co., 19 May 2013. Photo by Mark Brogie.

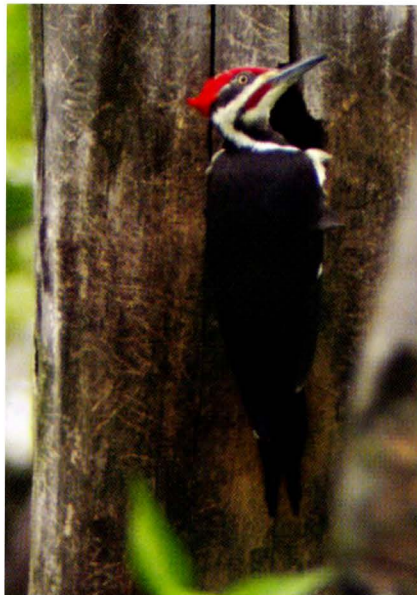
Eared Grebes,  
Lake Babcock,  
Platte Co., 2 May  
2013. Photo by  
Robert Manning.





## NESTING BIRDS

Western Kingbird adult with  
nestling in nest built in stoplight,  
downtown Falls City,  
Richardson Co., 1 July 2013.  
Photo by Joe Gubanyi.



Male Pileated Woodpecker at nest hole,  
Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 12 May 2005.  
Photo by Carlos Grande.

Nesting Cliff Swallows at Lake Ogallala below  
the Lake McConaughy dam, Keith Co.,  
8 May 2005. Photo by Carlos Grande.



Say's Phoebe nestlings, Toadstool  
Park, Sioux Co., 20 July 2012.  
Photo by Joseph Manning.

Northern Flicker nest in hollow maple tree in the photographer's backyard, O'Neill, Holt Co. Photos were taken on 3, 7 and 13 June 2013 by Jennifer Swerczek, who was unable to see into the nest, but used her iPhone to take these photos.



## NESTING BIRDS



Eastern Screech-Owl nest, Smith Lake WMA, Sheridan Co., 22 May 2013, showing remains of American Goldfinch and Swainson's Thrush. Photo by Wayne Mollhoff.



House Wren at unusual nest hole, Two Rivers SRA, Douglas Co., 17 June 2013 . Photo by Craig Crews.





Wilson's Snipe in snow in Grand Island, Hall Co., 23 Dec 2012. Photo by Steve Morris.



White-rumped Sandpiper showing diagnostic reddish area at base of lower mandible, Lakes Babcock/North, Platte Co., 13 May 2013. Photo by Ken Carnes.



Willet, east of Niobrara, Knox Co., 23 April 2013. Photo by Roger Dietrich.



Piping Plover, east of Niobrara, Knox Co., 23 April 2013. Photo by Roger Dietrich.



Least Sandpiper at Fremont Lakes SRA, Dodge Co., 2 May 2013. Photo by Ken Shuster.



Spotted Sandpiper at Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co., 13 May 2013. Photo by Dan Leger.



Immature (left) and adult (right) Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Crystal Cove Lake, South Sioux City, Dakota Co., 31 July 2012. Photo by Rusty Dungan.

Glaucous-winged Gull,  
Lake Ogallala,  
Keith Co., 16 Feb 2013.  
Photo by Carlos Grande.



Laughing Gull, Lake North, Platte Co.,  
19 May 2013. Photo by Sam Manning.



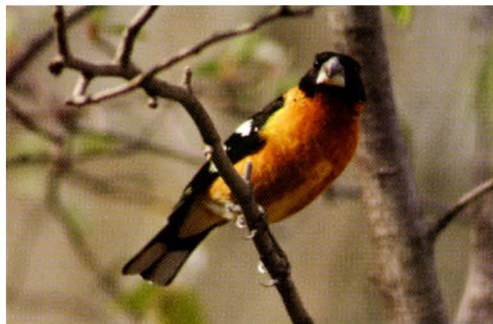
Sabine's Gull, Pawnee L , Lancaster Co.,  
15 Sept 2012. Photo by Joel Jorgensen.





Leucistic Canada Goose with typical Canada Geese, Walnut Creek, Papillion, Sarpy Co., 22 Dec 2012. Photo by Maggie and Chris Olson.

Hybrid Canada / domestic Greylag Goose with Canada Geese, 35th & Browning Sts., Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 31 Oct 2012. Photo by Ruth Stearns.



Black-headed Grosbeak in the photographer's yard, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 8 May 2013. Photo by Ruth Stearns.

Eastern Screech-Owl, Memorial Park area, Omaha, Douglas Co., 1 Nov 2012. Photo by Deborah Wyatt.



## An Unexpected Sandhill Crane Experience

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On April 24, 2012, I spent some time birding in Saunders County at Memphis SRA, Lake Wanahoo, and various other lakes in the Malmo, Nebraska, area. After seeing good numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers, a few Sanderlings, Willets and Long-billed Dowitchers, I headed over to Redtail WMA in Butler County. I hiked in to the lake area and started counting waterfowl with the use of my spotting scope. Franklin's Gulls started showing up and a few of them stopped just long enough to take a drink, but then quickly took off again to catch up with the rest of the flock that hadn't stopped for a sip on their way north.

While watching all of this activity, I was facing north on a north-facing hillside. I briefly stopped to turn around and look behind me to the south, and I saw a large bird approaching. My first reaction was that it was a Great Blue Heron, since there had been several cruising back and forth over the lake, but then I saw legs sticking out behind the bird and realized it was a Sandhill Crane.

It came in on quite a high flight, and I quickly put my spotting scope on it. I realized it was not a migrant when it began to circle over the lake and tilt its wings to let air out from underneath so it could reduce its height. It continued to drop until it landed on the north side of the lake; I was on the south side. While it was coming down I could see it had something in its beak, but I couldn't determine what it was. It looked a little like a frog, but I never did get a good enough look to determine exactly what it was.

After it landed I watched it through my scope from approximately 250-300 yards away. The crane slowly began to walk to the west along the water's edge next to cattails. It was very slow in its movement and stopped numerous times. I'm sure it saw me, since by that time I was swatting at a group of large blue-green flies to keep them from biting me. The crane continued to walk to the west for approximately 60-70 yards, stopping frequently en route. Never once did it vocalize.

The crane was very brown looking; I suspect this was because it had applied rust-colored mud to its feathers for camouflage. Throughout all of this time it held its prey in its beak. Occasionally it even preened feathers on its back with the morsel in its mouth. Finally, it stood still for at least 5 minutes in one place and then turned and disappeared into the cattails. After that I left Redtail WMA. My total observation of the crane was approximately 45 minutes from when I first saw it approach to when it finally disappeared into the vegetation.

Even though I see thousands of Sandhill Cranes every spring in central Nebraska, seeing this bird in late April in southeastern Butler County only 45 miles from the Omaha metro area was unexpected and exciting, especially since its behavior indicated possible nesting. When I encounter situations of this type I am usually reluctant to pursue the bird to see if it is nesting for fear of disturbing the bird(s) and/or increasing the chances of leading predators to a nest. I returned to the lake several times after this sighting until the middle of May, but I never saw or heard a Sandhill Crane in that area again.

First Documented Nebraska Record of  
Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

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On the morning of May 7, 2012, I was checking Facebook when I saw a post on Jane's Greenhouse wall about a hummingbird that was in one of their greenhouses. Since it was an unusual time to be seeing a hummer in this area I headed right over to confirm the sighting. Jane's Greenhouse is a small retail greenhouse located on the west edge of Scottsbluff, NE.

Fully expecting to see a Broad-tailed Hummingbird, I went inside to see if it was still there and didn't even bother taking the spare set of binoculars that I had in the car. I went into the greenhouse and saw the hummingbird flitting around the flowers in the hanging baskets that were for sale. There were only a couple of customers in the greenhouse and the bird didn't seem bothered by us at all. I watched it for a minute or so and saw that it was a female hummingbird, mostly green and white, and realized that it wasn't a Broad-tailed after all, so I went out to the car to get the spare binoculars. As I watched it fly back and forth, sometimes only a few feet away, I decided that it was a Ruby-throated or possibly a Black-chinned Hummingbird. It was a more slender shape than the Broad-tailed and didn't have any rufous coloring on it anywhere, but I wasn't sure what to look for to make the distinction between the two, so went back out to the car for my *Sibley Guide to Birds*. I checked the Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbird descriptions to see what to look for and went back into the greenhouse to observe the hummer again.

The bird would sit still for only a few seconds at a time, and I really couldn't be positive of the wing shape or color, although it did seem to be a dull green. The bird was pumping its tail, which the Black-chinned does and the Ruby-throated doesn't, and by that time I was pretty sure it was a Black-chinned Hummingbird. I decided that I really needed a picture of the bird for a positive identification. I didn't have a camera with me so I called Marie Smith to see if she was available to go to the greenhouse and take some pictures. When I got back to work, I posted the sighting on NEBirds and waited for the pictures. Marie emailed that she had looked at the pictures and thought it was a Black-chinned Hummingbird. After work I picked up the photo CD from Marie with the dozens of pictures she had taken.

In the pictures I could see the primaries on a perched bird had wide, rounded tips, most notably in the outer primaries (numbers 7-9, see photo on page 21), the head was more gray than green, and the bill was slightly decurved. All of that, along with the tail pumping, made me sure it was a Black-chinned Hummingbird. I emailed a few of the pictures to Ross Silcock and Mark Brogie for confirmation and status. Ross confirmed that it was a Black-chinned Hummingbird. I thought that there was at least one other confirmed sighting of a Black-chinned Hummingbird a few years ago, but Mark informed me that there were some reports but none confirmed in Nebraska. At that time I again posted the sighting on NEBirds and hoped the bird would stick around long enough for others to see it. Documentation, including photos taken by Marie Smith, was later provided to the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC) and this sighting was subsequently accepted as the first documented record for the species in Nebraska (Mark Brogie, NOURC Chairperson, personal communication).

The next day I stopped by to check on the bird during my lunch break. It was still there, but it was stressed and there were a lot more people in the greenhouses shopping. I figured it would be leaving the greenhouse soon and when I called the greenhouse later in the afternoon, I was told that it was gone. I believe Marie and I were the only birders who saw this bird.

The Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) is the western counterpart of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). The Black-chinned breeds throughout western North America, from northern Mexico and Texas north to Washington and southern British Columbia (Baltosser and Russell 2000). Breeding ranges of the Black-chinned and Ruby-throated overlap only in east-central Texas (Arnold 1995), but the Black-chinned does occasionally wander into the eastern United States in fall and winter (Hilton 2008). In the western United States, it is abundant and is noteworthy for being a generalist and occurring in a variety of habitats (Baltosser and Russell 2000).

Black-chinned Hummingbirds have been recorded outside of Nebraska relatively close to Scottsbluff in the following areas: Weld Co., Colorado, (CDOW [date unknown]), Rawlins Co., Kansas (Otte 2013), and Natrona and Laramie Cos., Wyoming (eBird 2012).

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## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Counts

by Don Paseka

Fifteen counts were held during the 2012-2013 season. The weather was seasonable and mostly dry with some open water. The total species count of 139 was the same as last year, but less than the record total of 149 counted in 2010-2011. In all, 23 species set new or tied previous high counts, including a new species for Nebraska counts, a single Bewick's Wren at Scottsbluff. The incredible number of European Starlings (250,444) found in the North Platte circle was largely responsible for the new high count (268,232) of that species and pushed the overall number of individuals for all counts to 510,790, second only to the record number of 587,400 individual birds found in 1977 due largely to 502,286 Red-winged Blackbirds counted. Among the 11 species counted in all circles, Wild Turkey (2088), Bald Eagle (375), and Eurasian Collared-Dove (1370) set new high counts. Nineteen species were seen in only one circle and of those 7 were single birds.

While no scoters were found, many counts for individual species of Anseriformes ranked among the top years. Mallards had the highest count (84,837) since 1988 when 118,150 were found, and the Blue-winged Teal number (13) was second only to the 30 found in 1971. Trumpeter Swans (69), Wood Ducks (all 46 of which were at Grand Island), Ring-necked Ducks (342), and Hooded Mergansers (90) all recorded new high counts.

Five of six possible grebe species were found, and new high counts were tallied for Pied-billed Grebe (17) and Red-necked Grebe (3), while the Horned Grebe count (4) tied the previous high. Great Blue Heron (52) and Belted Kingfisher (59) numbers were surpassed only in the previous CBC season. No unexpected shorebird species were found but 43 Killdeer found in 5 circles easily beat the old high of 28 found in 1994, and the 39 Wilson's Snipe beat the old high count 33 from two years ago.

Woodpeckers also made a good showing. The 7 Pileated Woodpeckers (5 at Omaha and 2 at DeSoto) eclipsed the old record of 3 in 2008 and 2010). This is the first time pileated woodpeckers have been recorded on more than one count. Red-bellied Woodpeckers also set a new high (459), while the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker count (16) was only surpassed by the 17 found in 1981. Carolina Wrens have rebounded nicely from the die-off following the harsh 2009-2010 winter and were found on 7 counts, setting a new high (65). Eastern Bluebirds continue to do well: a record 587 birds were found in 9 circles.

Birds of the open country and weed patches had an exceptional year. Total counts of Fox Sparrow (44) and Swamp Sparrow (25) were new highs. The number of Song Sparrows (200) was exceeded only by the 209 found in 1994. The Snow Bunting (74), Common Redpoll (541), and Pine Siskin (1273) counts also were new highs.

## 2012-13 CBC Participants

**Ames** Larry Einemann, Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Clem Klaphake, Jim Meyer, Wayne Mollhoff, Jerry Mulliken, Don Paseka (compiler), Janis Paseka, Gary Roberts, Ken Shuster, Ruth Stearns, Jerry Toll (13)

**Beaver Valley** Colleen Noecker, Don Noecker (compiler) (2)

**Branched Oak-Seward** Elaine Bachel, John Carlini, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Hannah Elliott, Joseph Gubanyi (compiler), Ethan Hutton, Joel Jorgensen, Clem Klaphake, Thomas Labedz, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Jessica Ripke, Shari Schwartz, Ruth Stearns, Mary Steinbeck (16)

**Calamus-Loup** Mark Brogie, Robin Harding, David Heidt (compiler), Wayne Mollhoff, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Lanny Randolph, Duane Wolff (8)

**Crawford** Brian Varvel, Nick Varvel, Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (4)

**DeSoto** Elliott Bedows, Laurine Blankenau, Myrna Brown, Jonas Grundman, Sue Mattix, Jim Meyer, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Susan Quinn, Sandy Reinken, Justin Rink, Gary Roberts, Jerry Toll (compiler), Steve Van Riper, Pat Williams (15)

**Grand Island** Kathy Aubushon, Gordon Backer, Tony Curtis, Carole Etherton, Jim Etherton, Jack Hanson, Blake Hatfield, Bob Hausmann, Michelle Kock, Ron Kruse, Anne Kruse, Connie McCartney (compiler), Jim Meyer, Steve Morris, Vicki Orr, Guy Roggenkamp, Patricia Smith, Vern Throop, Chuck Witter (19)

**Harrison** Kathy DeLara, Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (3)

**Lake McConaughy** Mary Bomberger Brown, Stephen Dinsmore (compiler), Larry Einemann, Levi Hamilton, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Robin Harding, Alice Heckman, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Joe Manning, Robert Manning, Sam Manning, Ron Martin, Lanny Randolph, Ross Silcock, Gabe Wilson, Jerald Zimmerman (18 + 17 feeder watchers)

**Lincoln** Elaine Bachel, Anita Breckbill, Linda R. Brown (compiler), Cindi Card, Pat Cole, Lynn Darling, Barbara J. DiBernard, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Billie Erxleben, Andrea Faas, Sue Guild, Pat Halderman, Matthew Hansen, Ian Hoppe, Paula Hoppe, Paul Johnsgard, Michelle Johnson, Joel Jorgensen, Tim Knott, Thomas E. Labedz, Daniel Leger, Dwain Leonhardt, Linda Maslowski, Pete Maslowski, Bruce Mellberg, Heather Modrow, Linda Plock, Kevin Poague, Bhalchandra Pujari, Susan Quinn, Ken Reitan, Dave Rus, Juan Russ, Jules Russ, Ruth Stearns, April Stevenson, Ned Stringham, Shane Tucker, Carol Wagener, Jake Walker, Dan Wheeler Michael Willison (43)

**Norfolk** Marc Bathke, Ben Brogie, Mark Brogie, Donna Christiansen, Brandon Cullison, David Heidt, Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, John Manning, Jacob Ryan, Duane Wolff (compiler) (11)

**North Platte** Monte Brown, Virginia Clark, Linda Deeds, Tad Grasz, Robin Harding, Gregg Hoover, Adam Kester, Roger Lawson, Jim Petersen, Marcia Petersen, Lanny Randolph, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Marissa Walker, Matthew Walker, T.J. Walker (compiler) (15)

**Omaha** Deb Bercaw, Nelli Falzgraf, Bob Fuchs, Betty Grenon (compiler), Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Steve Lamphere, Terry Lassek, Greg Nelson, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Rachel Paseka, Neal Ratzlaff, Al Reyer, Cindy Reyer, Justin Rink, Gary Roberts, Mary Jo Rome, Kathleen Rose, Rick Schmid, Steve Schmitt, Eric Scholar, Justin Stolen, Jerry Toll (27)

**Ponca** Vern Cummings, Sarah Daxon, Jeff Fields, Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Jack Koinzan, Tucker Lutter, Jan Null, Jerry Probst, Jim Swenson, Linda Swenson, Jerry Von Ehwegen, and Jennifer Wolff (compiler) (13)

**Scottsbluff** Kathy DeLara, Dean Drawbaugh, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Claylene Fitz, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Charlotte Herrell, Henry Herrera, Barbara Kaes, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Ed Newbury, Marie Smith, Rod Smith (14)

# 2012-2013 CBC Site Data

	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Total Party Hours <sup>d</sup>	Low Temp.	High Temp.	Sky	Precipitation
Ames	18 Dec	66	7,049	13	34	27	44	cloudy	none
Beaver Valley	1 Jan	25	446	2	5	14	22	pt cloudy	none
Branched Oak-Seward	16 Dec	79	7,999	16	61	29	33	cloudy	am snow
Calamus-Loup	31 Dec	66	12,508	8	31	18	24	cloudy	none
Crawford	22 Dec	24	921	4	13	28	46	clear	none
DeSoto-Boyer	29 Dec	73	7,357	16	64	12	20	clear	none
Grand Island	15 Dec	65	13,372	19	29	31	43	cloudy	rain
Harrison	23 Dec	24	361	3	N/A	40	47	pt cloudy	none
Lake McConaughy	29 Dec	111	67,094	35	75	4	30	pt cloudy	none
Lincoln	15 Dec	79	14,241	43	102	41	47	cloudy	none
Norfolk	22 Dec	54	14,837	11	33	6	29	clear	none
North Platte	15 Dec	67	299,344	15	18	29	42	pt cloudy; clear	none
Omaha	15 Dec	75	19,751	27	69	43	52	cloudy	lt rain am
Ponca S.P.	14 Dec	58	21,586	13	N/A	18	45	clear; pt cloudy	none
Scottsbluff	15 Dec	72	23,924	14	28	21	48	pt cloudy; pt clear	none

a- total (sum of column values) 139 510,790<sup>a</sup> 239<sup>a</sup> 24<sup>b</sup> 38<sup>b</sup>  
b- average 193<sup>c</sup>  
c-number of people who participated in CBCs. Note: many observers participated in more than one CBC.  
d-the sum of hours spent driving and walking during daylight, excluding feeder watching and owling

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison
Gr White-fronted Goose				8			2	
Snow Goose			400			cw	41	
Ross's Goose			2					
Cackling Goose	54		261	62			320	
Canada Goose	1076	11	830	3540		197	4554	1
Trumpeter Swan				48				
Wood Duck							46	
Gadwall	3		6	17				
American Wigeon			1	20			4	
Mallard	876	5	105	254	6	248	2428	7
Blue-winged Teal	1							
Northern Shoveler	3		23				36	
Northern Pintail			cw			1	4	
Green-winged Teal			21	8			1	
Canvasback						1		
Redhead	3		8					
Ring-necked Duck	8							
Greater Scaup								
Lesser Scaup			1			3	3	
Scaup sp.								
Long-tailed Duck								
Bufflehead						1		
Common Goldeneye	60		48	83		11	84	
Hooded Merganser	1		29	3				
Common Merganser	2		518	166		95	15	
Red-breasted Merganser			6				2	
Ruddy Duck			7					
Duck sp.								
Northern Bobwhite			3	31				
Ring-necked Pheasant	19		6		34	3	3	
Sharp-tailed Grouse								
Greater Prairie-Chicken		32		30				

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Gr White-fronted Goose	11	1	cw			6	5	33
Snow Goose		4	2	180	28	13150	cw	13805
Ross's Goose				1			cw	3
Cackling Goose	1719	101	152	64	64	120	50	2967
Canada Goose	5886	2885	4410	21973	10283	1629	11953	69228
Trumpeter Swan	21							69
Wood Duck								46
Gadwall	198	8		37	14	1	44	328
American Wigeon	120	12		29	1	1	135	323
Mallard	47000	874	1152	22074	650	3259	5899	84837
Blue-winged Teal				12				13
Northern Shoveler	9	33		7	cw		46	157
Northern Pintail	93	6	2	37			19	162
Green-winged Teal	108	20		79	8	1	13	259
Canvasback	191	4	3	1	19		4	223
Redhead	114	32	5				31	193
Ring-necked Duck	241	11		9	2		71	342
Greater Scaup	12		1				1	14
Lesser Scaup	281	37	7	8	14		67	421
Scaup sp.						4		4
Long-tailed Duck	1							1
Bufflehead	208			3	1			213
Common Goldeneye	352	4	8	57	90	13	103	913
Hooded Merganser	16	10		22	7		2	90
Common Merganser	1876	3		350	87	69		3181
Red-breasted Merganser	11	1						20
Ruddy Duck	6	1			30			44
Duck sp.					25			25
Northern Bobwhite	1							35
Ring-necked Pheasant	55	2	17	4		13	8	164
Sharp-tailed Grouse	13							13
Greater Prairie-Chicken	80							142

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison
Wild Turkey	90	24	9	524	407	169	245	30
Pied-billed Grebe			4					
Horned Grebe			1				1	
Red-necked Grebe								
Western Grebe								
Clark's Grebe								
Double-crested Cormorant			2	1				
American White Pelican			1			1		
Great Blue Heron	cw		2	5		1	8	
Bald Eagle	64	4	1	10	2	50	5	4
adult					1	33	5	3
immature					1	17		1
unspecified age	64	4	1	10				
Northern Harrier	3		2	1		12	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		4	2		6	2	
Cooper's Hawk	2		1	2		4	1	
Northern Goshawk								
Accipiter sp.						1		
Red-tailed Hawk	36	5	29	19	8	75	27	
Ferruginous Hawk								
Rough-legged Hawk	5	3	2	6	4	7	3	6
Buteo sp.								
Golden Eagle					1			3
Virginia Rail								
American Coot			48				12	
Killdeer	1		5	1				
Wilson's Snipe				2				
Bonaparte's Gull								
Mew Gull								
Ring-billed Gull	19		81					
California Gull								
Herring Gull			15					

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Wild Turkey	121	23	157	134	45	105	5	2088
Pied-billed Grebe	3			3	6		1	17
Horned Grebe	2							4
Red-necked Grebe	3							3
Western Grebe	255							255
Clark's Grebe	1							1
Double-crested Cormorant				2				5
American White Pelican	1		1					4
Great Blue Heron	9	15		2	6	1	3	52
Bald Eagle	74	7	13	24	88	25	4	375
adult								42
immature								19
unspecified age	74	7	13	24	88	25	4	314
Northern Harrier	21	2		2	3	10	7	64
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	5	2	1	4	2	cw	33
Cooper's Hawk	3	6	3	2	3			27
Northern Goshawk	1		2					3
Accipiter sp.								1
Red-tailed Hawk	37	39	41	12	66	55	20	469
Ferruginous Hawk	2			2			1	5
Rough-legged Hawk	12		3	2	cw	15	5	73
Buteo sp.							1	1
Golden Eagle	1						2	7
Virginia Rail	1							1
American Coot	990	90		2			52	1194
Killdeer	22	14						43
Wilson's Snipe	31		5	cw			1	39
Bonaparte's Gull	3							3
Mew Gull	2							2
Ring-billed Gull	900	674		26	260		6	1966
California Gull	2							2
Herring Gull	92	6		5	3			121



## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOJ-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison
Thayer's Gull								
Lesser Black-backed Gull								
Rock Pigeon	24	17	53	9	31	361	548	11
Eurasian Collared-Dove	84	7	17	75	50	3	496	9
Mourning Dove	1			1		17	7	
Eastern Screech-Owl	3		3	1		1	5	
Great Horned Owl	2	1	8	2		5	5	
Snowy Owl								1
Barred Owl	1		5			5		
Long-eared Owl						1		
Short-eared Owl	1		1					
Nothorn Saw-whet Owl						1		
Belted Kingfisher	6		2	5		4	3	
Red-headed Woodpecker			4			1		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	40	1	57	7		58	9	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3		6	2		1	2	
Downy Woodpecker	38	3	74	11	2	73	32	2
Hairy Woodpecker	7	1	19	2		12	13	1
Northern Flicker	52		81	28		39	34	
Red-shafted						2		
Yellow-shafted			52			37		
Unspecified	52		29	28			34	
Pileated Woodpecker						2		
American Kestrel	9		6	1		9	10	
Merlin	1		1		1	cw	1	
Prairie Falcon	cw							
Falcon sp.								
Northern Shrike	3		8	3	cw	4	2	
Steller's Jay								
Blue Jay	29	1	147	5	3	69	27	3
Black-billed Magpie					8			
American Crow	106	19	218	5223	6	73	53	4

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Thayer's Gull	2							2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1							1
Rock Pigeon	179	1390	468	169	451	120	357	4188
Eurasian Collared-Dove	117	2	173	53	14	15	255	1370
Mourning Dove	23	208	6		17	18	1	299
Eastern Screech-Owl	3				1			17
Great Horned Owl	7	7	7		3		3	50
Snowy Owl								1
Barred Owl		1			1			13
Long-eared Owl	3					4		8
Short-eared Owl	1							3
Nothorn Saw-whet Owl								1
Belted Kingfisher	5	9	2	2	12		9	59
Red-headed Woodpecker					38			43
Red-bellied Woodpecker	23	67	24	8	130	35		459
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1						16
Downy Woodpecker	41	100	29	6	108	34	16	569
Hairy Woodpecker	17	15	13	1	20	7	3	131
Northern Flicker	59	64	9	14	58	20	34	492
Red-shafted				10		1		13
Yellow-shafted		24	9	4		19	34	179
Unspecified	59	40			58			300
Pileated Woodpecker					5			7
American Kestrel	14	18	19	15	14	7	24	146
Merlin	1		1		1	1		8
Prairie Falcon	3			1	1		1	6
Falcon sp.		1						1
Northern Shrike	6	7	4	3	cw	5	2	47
Steller's Jay							2	2
Blue Jay	20	246	30	9	102	39	50	780
Black-billed Magpie	7						25	40
American Crow	66	81	63	532	78	97	6	6625

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison
Horned Lark	115	61	23	90		7	11	112
Black-capped Chickadee	114		84	12	14	205	48	7
Mountain Chickadee								
Tufted Titmouse						15		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		7	8		4	20	
White-breasted Nuthatch	40	2	74	3	2	76	35	1
Pygmy Nuthatch								4
Brown Creeper	3		18	3		4	4	
Winter Wren	1					1		
Marsh Wren								
Carolina Wren	1		1			8	2	
Bewick's Wren								
Golden-crowned Kinglet			5	10			2	
Eastern Bluebird	45		209	17		80	10	
Mountain Bluebird								
Townsend's Solitaire				1	5			1
Hermit Thrush	1					2		
American Robin	150	43	567	600		941	53	16
Northern Mockingbird								
Brown Thrasher				1				
European Starling	1987		406	247	33	1057	2333	12
Cedar Waxwing	200	18	164			27	25	
Lapland Longspur	283			6				2
Snow Bunting						59		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2		3					
Spotted Towhee						7		
Eastern Towhee						2		
American Tree Sparrow	56	48	529	161	47	678	283	
Field Sparrow							1	
Savannah Sparrow						1		
Fox Sparrow			4	1		19		
Song Sparrow	4		1	1		74		

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Horned Lark	886	20	87	3	8	3	80	1506
Black-capped Chickadee	27	180	22	6	254	123	39	1135
Mountain Chickadee							8	8
Tufted Titmouse					28			43
Red-breasted Nuthatch	17	17	7	5	2	1	12	101
White-breasted Nuthatch	23	96	21	6	174	36	10	599
Pygmy Nuthatch								4
Brown Creeper	4	20	7	4	14	3	1	85
Winter Wren					2			4
Marsh Wren	7						1	8
Carolina Wren		4			48	1		65
Bewick's Wren							1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	4	1	4	1		1	32
Eastern Bluebird	3	88			81	54		587
Mountain Bluebird	8							8
Townsend's Solitaire	67			4		1	41	120
Hermit Thrush		1		cw				4
American Robin	839	1433	19	937	476	153	169	6396
Northern Mockingbird		1						1
Brown Thrasher	1							2
European Starling	204	2175	6281	250444	1581	449	1023	268232
Cedar Waxwing	27	103	8	5	48	19	17	661
Lapland Longspur	85	1			28			405
Snow Bunting	15							74
Yellow-rumped Warbler	13	6					1	25
Spotted Towhee					6		1	14
Eastern Towhee								2
American Tree Sparrow	136	318	242	61	545	1025	84	4213
Field Sparrow								1
Savannah Sparrow								1
Fox Sparrow		12			8			44
Song Sparrow	27	2		1	81		9	200

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Ames	Beaver Valley	BOL-Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison
Lincoln's Sparrow						2		
Swamp Sparrow						12		
White-throated Sparrow	1					19	10	
Harris's Sparrow	23		97	20		207	28	
White-crowned Sparrow			3			27		
Sparrow sp.						1		
Dark-eyed Junco	232	51	618	203	77	838	245	7
Slate-colored			300		7			1
Oregon			5		3			4
Pink-sided								
unspecified subspecies	232	51	313	203	67	838	245	2
Northern Cardinal	56	2	148	14		116	74	
Dickcissel								
Red-winged Blackbird	416	34	326	339		152	76	
Western Meadowlark				3	5	1	369	
Meadowlark sp.	119		86			95		
Rusty Blackbird			1					
Brewer's Blackbird								
Common Grackle	1			2			1	
Great-tailed Grackle								
Brown-headed Cowbird				2				
Purple Finch	4		25			1		
House Finch	14		203	29		17	31	
Red Crossbill								
Common Redpoll				176	73	239		30
Pine Siskin			552	45		78	2	
American Goldfinch	135	12	283	221	3	224	134	
House Sparrow	308	41	370	75	99	436	480	87
TOTAL SPECIES	66	25	79	66	24	73	65	24
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	7,049	446	7,999	12,508	921	7,357	13,372	361

## 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count

	Lake McConaughy	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca SP	Scottsbluff	TOTAL
Lincoln's Sparrow					2	2		6
Swamp Sparrow	2				11			25
White-throated Sparrow		11			10			51
Harris's Sparrow	1	73	36		217	16	cw	718
White-crowned Sparrow	24	1				4	65	124
Sparrow sp.								1
Dark-eyed Junco	625	866	318	56	808	143	205	5292
Slate-colored		319		46				673
Oregon		4		4				20
Pink-sided				6				6
unspecified subspecies	625	543	318		808	143	205	4593
Northern Cardinal	21	228	33	14	176	24	2	908
Dickcissel		2						2
Red-winged Blackbird	463	207	221	1415	1416	77	1561	6703
Western Meadowlark	15	24	113	11	cw	27	65	633
Meadowlark sp.	290	27			103			720
Rusty Blackbird	3				1			5
Brewer's Blackbird	4							4
Common Grackle	200	5		cw	2		1	212
Great-tailed Grackle	1			75				76
Brown-headed Cowbird	400		2			1		405
Purple Finch	1	10	cw			1	1	43
House Finch	143	70	28	76	29	2	222	864
Red Crossbill		4		13			cw	17
Common Redpoll	1					22		541
Pine Siskin	44	136	10	4	135	71	196	1273
American Goldfinch	253	376	44	118	224	332	330	2689
House Sparrow	395	573	503	103	371	115	431	4387
TOTAL SPECIES	111	79	54	67	75	58	72	139
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	67,094	14,241	14,837	299,344	19,751	21,586	23,924	510,790

## NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION TREASURER'S REPORT December 31, 2012

	General	Breeding	Scholarship	Endowment	
<b>CHECKING</b>	Funds	Bird Atlas	Fund	Fund	Total
Jan. 1, 2012 Balance - Checking	3,484.26	83.93	430.74	500.00	4,498.93
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Memberships	3,055.00				3,055.00
Subscriptions	425.00				425.00
Donations-Raffle/Silent Auction/Gen	684.00		54.95		738.95
T-shirt Orders	610.00				610.00
NBR-old copies	4.00				4.00
Spring Meet-Broken Bow-2012	1,591.85				1,591.85
Fall Meet-Bellevue-2012	3,458.00				3,458.00
Interest from Endowment	176.40				176.40
NE Environmental Trust Grant		6,694.56			6,694.56
Transfer from Atlas CD		575.18			575.18
Transfer from Closed Savings	4,176.87	120.43	658.92		4,956.22
Sub-total Receipts	14,181.12	7,390.17	713.87	0.00	22,285.16
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>					
Spring Meet-Broken Bow-2012	1,338.34				1,338.34
Fall Meet-Bellevue-2012	2,808.80				2,808.80
Spring Meet-Covenant Cedars-2013	1,980.00				1,980.00
NBR-Jun,Sept,Dec2011&Mar 2012	2,528.58				2,528.58
Newsletter - Printing	190.40				190.40
Postage	310.90				310.90
T-shirt Printing	481.90				481.90
Accuity Insurance	251.00				251.00
Hostek Website	99.95				99.95
Nebraska Printing-new cards	613.65				613.65
Wayne Mollhoff		7,329.06			7,329.06
Transfer to Endowment				500.00	500.00
Sub-total Disbursements	10,603.52	7,329.06	0.00	500.00	18,432.58
December 31, 2012 Balance-Checking	7,061.86	145.04	1,144.61	0.00	8,351.51
<b>SAVINGS Closed. balance to checking</b>					
<b>CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT</b>					
Jan. 1, 2012 Balance - CDs	6,652.52	6,557.14		35,240.20	48,449.86
Principal Additions				500.00	500.00
Interest Received/Accrued	33.93	18.04		177.67	229.64
Transferred to checking		-575.18		-176.40	(751.58)
December 31, 2012 Balance - CDs	6,686.45	6,000.00		35,741.47	48,427.92
Maturity	39,863.00	39,922.00			39,990.00
CD Annual Rates	0.50%	0.30%		0.50%	
Endowment Principal				35,652.00	
Grand Total					56,779.43

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